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For 1877.
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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JUNE 6TH, 1877.

In his commercial report for 1876 just received, Mr. C. M. Fearn, the Acting British Vice-Consul at Haiphong, concludes with a few remarks on the relations which existed between foreigners and the officials and people of the place, which show that these were at one time the reverse of satisfactory. When the port was opened, on the 1st April last year, the foreigners, Mr. Fearn tells us, met with a very friendly reception from all the officials, and the latter took great pains to keep the people quiet and civil. Proclamations were issued soon after the arrival of the Consular staff, enjoining the people to treat the foreigners with respect and to refrain from annoying them. For a brief period all went well, but in spite of the proclamations and of the other measures taken by the authorities to preserve order, "the effect of certain revolting rumours concerning

foreigners" had preceded them soon enough to be felt, and within a few weeks of the opening of the port the natives became so abusive that the foreigners could hardly move about in any direction without getting insulted. In one village on the other side

of the river Mr. Brown, the late Commissioner of Customs, was even stoned. The insult at last became so great that Mr. Fearn was obliged to bring it officially to the notice of the Kiangshant district magistrate. That official gave the elders of the villages

the word of His Majesty's 28th Regiment will perform the following programme at Mrs. Hennessy's "at home" at Government House to-day from 3.15 to 7 p.m.—

Overture....."Die Freudenreich," Lindaute, Pousset, "Deutsch Liederbuch," Koenig, Schmid, "Mandolin," Wiedemann, "Gitarre,"

Solo....."Gavotte de Brabant,"... Opie, Gaspal, "Earl of Oxford,"... Kossell, "God Save the Queen," B. P. Russel, Compteur.

Labour, &c.,

BOAT OBSTRUCTION.

Leong Wao and Wong Asing, boatmen, were charged by P. C. Young with causing an obstruction at Mr. McDonald's slip, at 10.30 p.m. on the 2d instant without permit. They were fined 25 cents each.

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON Deputy Inspector-General, Mr. W. H. Steamer Hospital, had the Chinese crew of the steamer "Liberator" entirely exorcised in the use of the fire extinguishers. The sailors have regular practice with these apparatus, but have never yet seen them applied to a fire. Dr. Wells apparently thought that if that was the actual effect of the extinguishers on a blazing mass they would the better appreciate their use, and so there was more interest in the experiment than in the outcome of a fire. He had, therefore, the sailors made up in the hall opposite the hospital, on which the efficiency of the extinguishers was practically tested. Major-General, the Hon. Sir F. Colborn witnessed the experiment, and there were also present Commodore Watson, Captain St. John (Brigadier-Major), Captain Butler, of the Royal Engineers, and Captain of the Engineers, Captain Poland, of the Queen's Own Royal Fusiliers, and several other Military and Naval Officers. The bonfire was composed chiefly of large logs well coated with coal tar, in order to make the test as crucial as possible. When the fire had got a firm hold of the mass of inflammable material the extinguishers, in number, were brought to bear upon the fire engine, one after another. The progress of the flames and smoke was visible to the eye, one by one, of the extinguishers. The extinguishers were Wm. Bruce Ditch's patent "Fire Queen." The liquid which gives to the water its high extinguishing power is contained in a bottle suspended in the water, and when the apparatus is required to be used, this bottle is inverted, and the extinguisher is applied to the contents mix with the water. This is an improvement upon the old system of having the water always charged with the solid, which corroded the iron and so diminished the durability and reliability of the machine. The only defect is that the extinguisher is rather too

expensive to be freely used by one man, as they are intended to be. Their utility, however, was demonstrated beyond question, and the progress of the fire was much sooner than could have been done by the means usually available between the time of the discovery of a fire and the arrival of the fire engines.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Low Kiun Chia, a doctor, was charged by his third wife, Hon. Atali, with assaulting her. She said the first wife had gone to another. The second the prisoner beat, and left him. She has been with him four years. Last night the prisoner beat her, and she fled, and at 12 o'clock the next morning had to go to the hospital for a bandage.

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NAUTICAL ITEMS.

The Austrian Government has awarded £100 to the inhabitants of St. Kilda for kindness to an Austrian crew who had been shipwrecked. The Austrian Merchant ship from Liverpool to Bombay with coal has been wrecked north of Cabo de Horn. Of the crew of 17, 3 were saved. A Greenwich Hospital pension of £200 a year, vacant by the death of Admiral Sir Edward Belcher, K.C.B., has been conferred on Vice-Admiral James Wilcox, O.B.

The ship, "Worcestor Castle," from Portland, which had been in the hands of the Londoners who formed the crew of the ship, "Orient," has abandoned at sea in a sinking condition.

The freshwater canal connecting Cairo with the Suez Canal at Lake Timsah was formally opened on April 15th. It will not be opened for navigation, however, until the 15th of August.

The Army and Navy Gazette states that a Russian officer has received permission to make a tour of inspection of all our dockyards and naval establishments as he may desire to visit.

The "Alberta," Royal yacht, has been docked at Portsmouth for the purpose of being surveyed. Her boilers are known to be in a sorry condition, and the hull, which was built at Falmouth some sixteen years ago, has recently shown signs of decay.

Mr. Ridge, late assistant paymaster of the "Barbadoes," has been dismissed from her Majesty's service. The recent court-martial on Captain Stevens, of the "Barbadoes," expressed dissatisfaction at the manner in which Mr. Ridge gave evidence on that occasion.

The correspondent of the "Daily News" at Alexandria has now been received at the British Embassy. He found stopped at the port of Massaua, and, finding his passage to Egypt impossible, he got off his ship, seized the captain, and took away the slaves, entering them on the ship's books.

A gratuity of £1,000 has been awarded by the Admiralty to Mrs. Bristol, the Admiralty solicitor, on his office being abolished and the duties transferred to the Treasury. Their Lordships also took action to express their satisfaction at the conduct of the business of this office, which always has conducted.

The steamer "John B. Russel," laden with \$1,000 worth of military stores for Turkey, has sailed from Newhaven for Constantinople. She sailed under an urgent telegram ordering the voyage to be hastened, and, it is believed, will get such a start that she cannot be inter-

vened with by any other steamer.

Intelligence from New York, April 15th, announces that the steamer "Lea," bound from Savannah for Nassau, was burnt at sea on the 13th April. Three of the passengers are reported missing. Eighteen of the crew, who embarked in a lifeboat, are supposed to have been lost. The remainder of those on board were saved.

The steamer "Fedor," screw propeller ship, was launched at Devonport Dockyard on the 23rd April.

She is 170 feet between perpendiculars and 34 feet extreme breadth, the displacement being 1,124 tons.

She has engines of 500-horse power, which it is estimated will give a speed of 10 knots. She will carry to 7-inch .90 cwt. guns, revolving, and four 60-pounders, broadside.

The gun has been removed, not to damage the "Hercules," the last screw propeller ship of the Royal Navy to be built, but to avoid the risk of a

collision with the "Leander," the only other screw propeller ship in the Royal Navy.

The "Fedor" is to be used for trials, and the first division of the Steam Reserve. Her boilers are much worn, but should it be deemed necessary to add to the strength of Admiral Hornby's command in the Mediterranean she could be temporarily repaired for a further commission in a short time.

The "Frigate," iron screw-plate ship, Captain George H. Parkin, recently flagship in the Mediterranean, was after being dismantled, paid off to the fourth division of the Steam Reserve at Portsmouth on the 26th April.

The boilers of the ship are beyond repair, and she will have to be provided with new ones, which will necessitate the taking up of the decks. Besides, the iron screw propeller ship "Acasta" is now in command of present.

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She was accordingly paid off, standing on the 20th April into the first division of the Steam Reserve. Her boilers are much worn, but should it be deemed necessary to add to the strength of Admiral Hornby's command in the Mediterranean she could be temporarily repaired for a further commission in a short time.

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